



COUNTY OF KAUAI

News Release

July 5, 2016

Sister City Reaffirmation Ceremony held today

LĪHU'E – Sixteen years ago, a Kaua'i delegation led by former Mayor Maryanne Kusaka travelled to Tahiti to establish a sister city relationship between the County of Kaua'i and the Commune of Papeno'o in Tahiti, French Polynesia.

This morning, a reaffirmation ceremony was held at the Līhu'e Civic Center, Mo'ikeha Courtyard that involved the current leaders of these municipalities.

The resolution was signed by Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr., Council Chair Mel Rapozo and the head of the Commune of Papeno'o, Mayor Vetea Avaemai.

"We are delighted to host a delegation from Papeno'o. Our shared heritage can be traced all the back to the shores of Raiatea, where our ancestors departed from and made their way to Hawai'i nei," said Mayor Carvalho. "This exchange enables us to continue to connect and to promote cultural sustainability."

Council Chair Rapozo said, "Our heritage and culture has long been intertwined with Tahiti, and we look forward to many more years of friendship with the people of Papeno'o."

The program included performances by Halau Ka Lei Mokihana o Leinaala, O Tahiti E, Toa Huhina, Haururu, Halau Ka Waikahe Lani Malie, Carol Casil and her family, Nalani Brun, Kekai Chock and Gabriel Ornellas.

Approximately 70 people flew to Kaua'i from Tahiti for this occasion and to participate in a number of events including workshops, forums and performances.

Local dignitaries, government officials, and county employees were also in attendance.

Randy Wichman served as interpreter for the French-speaking people, while Eriki Marchand translated from French to English. Kaleo Carvalho was the emcee.

To commemorate the ceremony, an iliahi tree will be planted at the corner of Hardy Street and Kūhiō Highway. In addition, a plaque will be placed alongside the tree.

The inscription on the plaque will be as follows: The people of Kaua'i o Manokalanipo extend our fondest aloha to our fellow descendants of Māuiakalana of Tahiti Nui Māre'are'a in commemoration of the established sister city relationship between the County of Kaua'i and the Commune of Papeno'o, which was established 16 years ago. On this day, we are honored to welcome Te Avamoa with whom our shared heritage with Māui, Mo'ikeha and La'amaikahiki is firm, respected and time-honored.

